

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3129

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, CU, US
SUBJECT: VISIT BY FORMER PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON:
PROPOSALS FOR PROGRESS ON PUERTO RICO

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN TALKS WITH AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND
LOWENSTEIN AND MISOFF ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND IN AN EARLIER
LETTER TO YOUNG, FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO AND
POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) PRESIDENT RAFAEL HERNANDEZ
COLON (RHC) MADE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS FOR A US
"OFFENSIVE" STANCE ON PUERTO RICO:
-- FREE THE NATIONALIST FIVE;
-- RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO
TO A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE;
--WORK TOWARDS A CONSENSUS ON THE PROCEDURES FOR A
STATUS DECISION, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT TO HOLD A
REFERENDUM IN 1981 AND TO DEFINE AN IMPROVED COMMONWEALTH
STATUS (WHICH WOULD ACCORD WITH GA RESOLUTION 1541).
HE SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS WOULD HELP TO SOLVE OUR
PROBLEMS WITH THE C-24 OR AT LEAST GET THE QUESTION
OF PUERTO RICO INTO SOME OTHER PART OF THE UN (SIC).
OUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS FOLLOW BY SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 16, FORMER PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR
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RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON (RHC) MET SEPARATELY WITH
AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND LOWENSTEIN AND MISOFF TO
DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR A US "OFFENSIVE" POSITION
ON PUERTO RICO. RHC SAID THAT IN RECENT CONVER-
SATIONS WITH THE LEADER OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST
PARTY (PSP), HE HAD DETECTED FATIGUE AND FRUSTRATION
AT C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO AND RECOGNITION

THAT INDEPENDENCE IS NOT A VIABLE OPTION FOR PUERTO RICO. RHC BELIEVES THAT THE PSP LEADER WOULD BE WILLING TO REIN IN C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO IN RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE DEFINITION AND ELABORATION OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS ALONG THE LINES LAID OUT IN GA RESOLUTION 1541 (XV). HE SAID THAT CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON INDICATED TO HIM A WILLINGNESS TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO ALL STATUS OPTIONS IN A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO. 2.A IN HIS MEETINGS WITH US AND IN A LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 6 TO YOUNG (POUCHED TO SCHIELE, IO/UNP), RHC MADE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO SHAPE AN "OFFENSIVE" POSITION FOR THE USG INCLUDING:

- UNCONDITIONAL, UNSOLICITED PARDON FOR THE FIVE NATIONALISTS IN FEDERAL PRISONS;
- A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO TO A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE;
- WORKING TOWARDS A CONSENSUS ON THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE WITH ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES IN PUERTO RICO, THE US AND THE UN (SUCH AS MEMBERS OF THE C-24);
- SHAPING USG RESPONSES TO EACH OF THE THREE POSSIBLE CHOICES;
- FORMUATING A POLICY REGARDING ALL NEW

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS SO THAT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION DOES NOT DETERMINE OR PRECLUDE THE CHOICES OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE ON THEIR STATUS. IN HIS LETTER RHC DESCRIBED THE BASIC PROBLEM REGARDING THE HANDLING OF PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS A LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS.

3. CONCERNING A MECHANISM FOR WORKING TOWARDS A CONSENSUS ON THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS RHC SAID HE BELIEVED A VISIT TO PUERTO RICO BY LOWENSTEIN FOR INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PIP AND PSP LEADERS, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNOR WOULD BE HELPFUL AS A FIRST STEP IN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONSENSUS. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERIES, RHC PROVIDED MORE DETAIL ON WHAT KIND OF A CONSENSUS HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. IT WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF AN AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES TO HOLD A STATUS REFERENDUM IN 1981 WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL STATUS ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING AN IMPROVED AND BETTER DEFINED VERSION OF COMMONWEALTH (WHICH WOULD FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF GA RESOLUTION 1541 (XV).) RHC AGREED THAT THE GOVERNOR MIGHT RESIST SUCH AN EFFORT BUT SAID HE WOULD BE FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH IT IF

THE OTHER PARTIES, PIP, PSP, AND PDP WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT. RHC THEN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROPOSALS COULD RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE C-24 OR AT LEAST GET THE ISSUE OUT OF THE C-24 AND INTO SOME OTHER PART OF THE UN (SIC). MISOFF EXPLAINED, AS HE HAD ON MANY EARLIER OCCASIONS, THAT ANY UN CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS IN WHATEVER FORUM IS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR POSITION AND CALLS INTO QUESTION THE DECISION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO.

4. YOUNG TOLD RHC THAT HE HOPED THAT BOTH HE AND TANZANIAN PERM REP AND C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM WOULD BE
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ABLE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO TOGETHER, PERHAPS AFTER THE GA. IF SALIM CAN'T GO, YOUNG HOPES TO VISIT PUERTO RICO ALONE AFTER THE GA. RHC AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT A QUIET EXPLORATORY VISIT BY LOWENSTEIN (KEEPING THE GOVERNOR FULLY INFORMED) WOULD BE A USEFUL FIRST STEP.

5. COMMENT: USUN IS PREPARING A TELEGRAM CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS ON PUERTO RICO. WE WILL COMMENT ON RHC'S PROPOSALS IN THAT TTELEGRAM.
YOUNG

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